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**NEWS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SIX INDICTED IN SACRAMENTO AREA**  
**ILLEGAL GAMBLING OPERATION**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced that six residents of the Sacramento area were indicted today in connection with a large illegal gambling ring that had been operating in several counties in the Central Valley of California. The persons indicted today, PRASERT SOMSINSAWASDI, 59, his wife NOY SOMSINSAWASDI, 46, CHAO LEE, 32, SOUKUANE SAELEE, 48, his wife MOUANG SAELEE, 44, and LA SOUKASENE, 41, were all arrested on August 16, 2006 in the course of a joint operation conducted by the FBI, the California Department of Justice, Division of Gambling Control, the California Lottery's Security/Law Enforcement Division, the IRS, and the Sacramento and Fresno Police Departments. During the operation, 14 search warrants were executed in Sacramento, Yolo, and Fresno Counties. The arrests and searches followed a lengthy joint investigation by those agencies, led by the FBI, and the California Department of Justice, Division of Gambling Control.

In the indictment returned today, all six defendants were charged with conducting an illegal gambling business between October 2001 and August 2006. Defendant PRASERT SOMSINSAWASDI was also charged with conspiring to launder the proceeds of the illegal gambling operation, and with 12 counts of money laundering, in connection with a scheme in which he is alleged to have routed cash proceeds to an associate, who then issued him bi-monthly "payroll" checks in the same amounts in order to create fictitious wage income for PRASERT SOMSINSAWASDI. The indictment alleges that PRASERT SOMSINSAWASDI filed tax returns reporting the fictitious income, supported by bogus Form 1099s, for the years 2002 through 2005. The indictment also seeks the forfeiture of the SOMSINSAWASDI's residence, two other pieces of property, and over \$50,000 in cash and U.S. Savings Bonds seized at their residence during the searches on August 16.

According to court documents, PRASERT and NOY SOMSINSAWASDI are alleged to have operated an illegal lottery organization that sold lottery tickets through residences, Asian markets and small video stores, taking in tens of thousands of dollars per day. Defendants CHAO LEE, SOUKUANE and MOUANG SAELEE, and LA SOUKASENE, were all major sellers of illegal lottery tickets.

According to Assistant United States Attorneys Benjamin B. Wagner and Anne E. Pings, who are prosecuting the case, if convicted, all defendants face prison terms of up to 5 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000, and defendant PRASERT SOMSINSAWASDI also faces a prison term of up to 20 years in prison and a fine of up to \$500,000 on each of the money laundering charges. PRASERT SOMSINSAWASDI is currently in federal custody. The remaining defendants have been released on bond, subject to conditions.

The charges in the indictment are only allegations, and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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